

COMMITTEE MINUTES for GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Date: February 13, 2007

Place: Legislative Dining Room

Convened: 2/13/2007
9:45 AM

Recessed:

Reconvened:

Adjourned: 2/13/2007
11:20 AM

Present: Senators Courtney-CH, Connolly-VC, Wieck-RM, Lundby, Schmitz
Representatives Lensing-CH, Ford-VC, Watts-RM, Baudler, Berry, Olson, S., Swaim,
Tymeson, Whitead

Absent: None

Excused: None

Chair Lensing called the meeting to order at 9:43 am. Approval of minutes was postponed until a quorum was present. Roll was taken and those absent were excused.

Representative Lensing introduced guest speaker Ralph Rosenberg, Executive Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission (CRC). Rosenberg gave a brief background of the CRC, discussing both the need for additional funding and subpoena powers. Also discussed jurisdiction over inmates with disabilities. Referenced handout and referred members to CRC website.

Representative Lensing opened the floor for questioning by members. Questions and discussion followed.

Representative Lensing moved for the approval of minutes. Motion was seconded by Senator Courtney and minutes stand approved.

Representative Lensing introduced John Baldwin of the Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC). Baldwin distributed and discussed the DOC 2006 Mental Health report. Discussed new and existing facilities that aid in the treatment of inmates with mental illness and the difficulty in recruiting psychiatrists to the DOC.

Representative Lensing opened the floor for questions by members. Baldwin and Dr. Bruce Sieleni M.D., DOC mental health director, yielded to questions from committee members. Questions and discussion followed.

Representative Lensing thanked the speakers and opened the floor for additional business.

Representative Baudler motioned to request an audit of the Polk County Internet Clearing Account. Representative Watts proposed an amendment requesting the inclusion of the Iowa State Association of Counties. The amendment was accepted and the motion was seconded by Representative Olson and passed. Representative Ford voted nay until further information was presented regarding this issue. Representative Lensing requested that Sam Leto of Legislative Services Agency draft a letter regarding this matter to the State Auditor.

Senator Wieck was recognized with additional business, requesting that the committee delay the start of future meetings until all bodies are present.

Representative Lensing moved to arise, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Representative Vicki Lensing

Lindsay Bland, Committee Secretary